

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-06 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 NSF-02 SSO-00 EB-07 IO-13 MED-03

L-03 SCA-01 SCS-03 NSC-05 AGR-10 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02

PRS-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /113 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GPALAZZOLO&OFDA/AID:GBEAUCHAMP/K

APPROVED BY OFDA:EEANDERSON

ARA:WHLUERS

ARA/CAR:WWHEELER (DRAFT)

OES/OFA/MSO:JBARNES (INFO)

OFDA:SWGUTH (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:JSMITH (DRAFT)

COGUARD:CDR. COSTELLO (PHONE)

DOD:FNELSON (INFO)

USGS:HFLEMING (INFO)

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O R 252240Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

JCS

USCINCLANT

USCINCRED

USCINCSO

COMDT COGARD

UNCLAS STATE 211660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, TGEN, FR, MB

SUBJECT: MONITORING VOLCANO FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF

U.S. TOURISTS

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REFS: A) MARTINIQUE 347; B) STATE 210509

1. FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF OUR OFFER TO ASSIST IN CONNECTION WITH ONGOING ERUPTION OF VOLCANO LA SOUFRIERE (REF A). THE PREFECT OF GUADELOUPE HAS REQUESTED U.S. SCIENTIFIC PARTICIPATION TO MONITOR VOLCANO'S ACTIVITY. US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IS DISPATCHING TWO SCIENTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ENDEAVOR (REF B).

2. WHILE WE ARE FULLY CONFIDENT OF FRENCH CAPABILITY TO CARE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN GUADELOUPE, WE ARE, HOWEVER, ALSO LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYING US FACILITIES FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION FROM THE ISLAND OF SOME 300 US TOURISTS IN THE EVENT OF AN ERUPTION NECESSITATING SUCH ACTION. WE ARE ASSUMING THAT IN A REAL EMERGENCY FRENCH AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME OUR ASSISTANCE IN HANDLING EVACUATION OF US CITIZENS. THIS COULD BE MUCH BETTER ACCOMPLISHED IF WE HAVE OUR OWN ONSITE LIAISON AND COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHED IN ADVANCE.

3. IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR SUCH EVACUATION, WE NEED A DEPENDABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH GUADELOUPE. OUR CONSULATE IN MARTINIQUE IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL FRENCH AUTHORITIES AND HAS BEEN ABLE SO FAR TO MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENTS. GIVEN, HOWEVER, THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN FWI, WE CAN EXPECT A COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN BETWEEN GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE AND OVERLOADING OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS BETWEEN MARTINIQUE AND WASHINGTON IF GREATER ERUPTIONS OCCUR.

4. THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE SENDING SOONEST TO GUADELOUPE A VERY SMALL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM (PORTABLE, SMALL TRAILER MOUNTED UNIT) WITH REPRESENTATIVE FROM STATE OR AID TO LIAISON WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES. PROPOSED TEAM WOULD BE AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE AND POSITIONING OF SUCH A TEAM WOULD SERVE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PROVIDING US AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH INFORMATION ON VOLCANO'S ACTIVITY AND ADVANCE NOTICE ON MAJOR ERUPTIONS. DEPARTMENT OR AID OFFICER COULD CONCEIVABLY WORK CLOSLY WTH US SCIENTISTS

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BEING DISPATCHED BY US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. ALL COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED AND FULLY AVAILABLE TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES AT ANY TIME. THE TEAM WOULD BE FOR US OFFICIAL USE, NOT RPT NOT FOR MEDIA PURPOSES AND COULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO GOF IF DESIRED.

5. FOR PARIS: PLEASE ADVISE YOUR REACTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL AND, UNLESS YOU FIND THE PROPOSAL OBJECTIONABLE,

APPROACH APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN CLEARANCES FOR INSTALLMENT OF US COMMUNICATIONS UNIT AND ADVISE US OF THEIR RESPONSE.

6. FOR MARTINIQUE: YOU MAY WISH TO BRING USG PROPOSAL TO ATTENTION OF PREFECT AUROUSSEAU TO SEEK HIS CONCURRENCE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO ADVISABILITY OF TEMPORARILY DETAILING YOUR CONSULAR OFFICER TO GUADELOUPE AS TEAM LEADER AND LIAISON WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES. THE TEAM LEADER WOULD MAINTAIN ON SITE LIAISON REGARDING NUMBERS (AND NAMES), LOCATION AND STATUS OF US PERSONNEL ON ISLAND; STATUS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS, AND REPORTS FROM SCIENTISTS AND FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. KISSINGER

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